

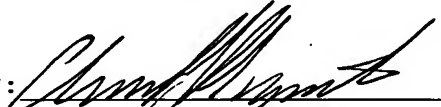
REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment puts the claims into proper form for examination. Note that claims 5 and 6 have been amended; new claims 11-17 have been added; and claims 1-4 and 7-10 remain unchanged. Kindly calculate the filing fee based on the amended claims..

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter which would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

MASATOSHI UEDA, ET AL.

By: 
Charles L. Gagnebin III
Registration No. 25,467
Attorney for Applicant(s)

WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN, GAGNEBIN
& LEOVICI LLP
Ten Post Office Square
Boston, MA 02109
Telephone: (617) 542-2290
Telecopier: (617) 451-0313

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Enclosure

Red-lined claims for the Examiner's convenience:

CLAIM 5. The fuel reformer of ~~any of claim 1 to 4~~, wherein an average thickness of said Cr oxide layer is 5 to 100 μm .

CLAIM 6. The fuel reformer of claim ~~1 to 5~~, wherein a thin film having a Cr concentration higher than a Cr concentration of a base material is formed on a surface of steel material making the reformer, and thereafter a Cr oxide layer formed by heat treatment is formed thereon.